

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-14 (Canceled)

15. (New) A heat-resistant lubricity imparting coating agent containing a polydimethylsiloxane copolymer, said polydimethylsiloxane copolymer including a long chain alkyl group having a carbon number of 12 or more.
16. (New) The heat-resistant lubricity imparting coating agent according to claim 15, wherein the weight ratio of said long chain alkyl group having a carbon number of 12 or more to the polydimethylsiloxane copolymer is not less than 10% by weight nor more than 42% by weight.
17. (New) The heat-resistant lubricity imparting coating agent according to claim 15, wherein, when manufacturing the polydimethylsiloxane copolymer, the weight ratio of a vinyl monomer containing the long chain alkyl group having a carbon number of 12 or more to the entire monomers used in a copolymerization reaction is not less than 15% by weight nor more than 55% by weight.
18. (New) The heat-resistant lubricity imparting coating agent according to claim 15, further containing a binder made of a resin.

19. (New) The heat-resistant lubricity imparting coating agent according to claim 15, wherein the polydimethylsiloxane copolymer is a polydimethylsiloxane graft copolymer which is obtained by copolymerization of at least the vinyl monomer containing the long chain alkyl group having a carbon number of 12 or more with a polydimethylsiloxane compound containing a polymerizable vinyl group at one end thereof.

20. (New) The heat-resistant lubricity imparting coating agent according to claim 15, wherein the polydimethylsiloxane copolymer is a polydimethylsiloxane block copolymer which is obtained by copolymerization of at least an azo-group-containing polydimethylsiloxane amide serving as a polymerization initiator with the vinyl monomer containing the long chain alkyl group having a carbon number of 12 or more.

21. (New) The heat-resistant lubricity imparting coating agent according to claim 16, wherein the polydimethylsiloxane copolymer is a polydimethylsiloxane block copolymer which is obtained by copolymerization of at least an azo-group-containing polydimethylsiloxane amide serving as a polymerization initiator with the vinyl monomer containing the long chain alkyl group having a carbon number of 12 or more.

22. (New) The heat-resistant lubricity imparting coating agent according to claim 17, wherein the polydimethylsiloxane copolymer is a polydimethylsiloxane block copolymer which is obtained by copolymerization of at least an azo-group-containing polydimethylsiloxane amide serving as a polymerization initiator with the vinyl monomer containing the long chain alkyl group having a carbon number of 12 or more.

23. (New) The heat-resistant lubricity imparting coating agent according to claim 18, wherein the polydimethylsiloxane copolymer is a polydimethylsiloxane block copolymer which is obtained by copolymerization of at least an azo-group-containing polydimethylsiloxane amide serving as a polymerization initiator with the vinyl monomer containing the long chain alkyl group having a carbon number of 12 or more.

24. (New) The heat-resistant lubricity imparting coating agent according to claim 15, wherein a silicon component is contained only in molecules of the polydimethylsiloxane copolymer.

25. (New) A thermal transfer recording medium, comprising:  
a substrate film having the front surface and the back surface thereof;  
an ink layer formed on the front surface of the substrate film; and  
a heat-resistant lubricous protective layer formed on the back surface of the substrate film,  
wherein said heat-resistant lubricous protective layer includes a polydimethylsiloxane copolymer containing a long chain alkyl group having a carbon number of 12 or more.

26. (New) The thermal transfer recording medium according to claim 25, wherein the weight ratio of said long chain alkyl group having a carbon number of 12 or more to the polydimethylsiloxane copolymer is not less than 10% by weight nor more than 42% by weight.

27. (New) The thermal transfer recording medium according to claim 25, wherein said heat-resistant lubricous protective layer is formed by applying a heat-resistant lubricity imparting coating agent containing the polydimethylsiloxane copolymer, said polydimethylsiloxane copolymer being manufactured such that the weight ratio of a vinyl monomer containing the long chain alkyl group having a carbon number of 12 or more to the entire monomers used in a copolymerization reaction is not less than 15% by weight nor more than 55% by weight in manufacturing the polydimethylsiloxane copolymer.

28. (New) The thermal transfer recording medium according to claim 25, wherein the heat-resistant lubricous protective layer contains a binder made of a resin.

29. (New) The thermal transfer recording medium according to claim 25, wherein the polydimethylsiloxane copolymer is a polydimethylsiloxane graft copolymer which is obtained by copolymerization of at least the vinyl monomer containing the long chain alkyl group having a carbon number of 12 or more with a polydimethylsiloxane compound containing a polymerizable vinyl group at one end thereof.

30. (New) The thermal transfer recording medium according to claim 25, wherein the polydimethylsiloxane copolymer is a polydimethylsiloxane block copolymer which is obtained by copolymerization of at least an azo-group-containing polydimethylsiloxane amide serving as a polymerization initiator with the vinyl monomer containing the long chain alkyl group having a carbon number of 12 or more.

31. (New) The thermal transfer recording medium according to claim 26, wherein the polydimethylsiloxane copolymer is a polydimethylsiloxane block copolymer which is obtained by copolymerization of at least an azo-group-containing polydimethylsiloxane amide serving as a polymerization initiator with the vinyl monomer containing the long chain alkyl group having a carbon number of 12 or more.

32. (New) The thermal transfer recording medium according to claim 27, wherein the polydimethylsiloxane copolymer is a polydimethylsiloxane block copolymer which is obtained by copolymerization of at least an azo-group-containing polydimethylsiloxane amide serving as a polymerization initiator with the vinyl monomer containing the long chain alkyl group having a carbon number of 12 or more.

33. (New) The thermal transfer recording medium according to claim 28, wherein the polydimethylsiloxane copolymer is a polydimethylsiloxane block copolymer which is obtained by copolymerization of at least an azo-group-containing polydimethylsiloxane amide serving as a polymerization initiator with the vinyl monomer containing the long chain alkyl group having a carbon number of 12 or more.

34. (New) The thermal transfer recording medium according to claim 25, wherein the heat-resistant lubricous protective layer contains a silicon component only in molecules of the polydimethylsiloxane copolymer.